The Archives of Sexual Behavior: 40 Years On

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With this issue, *Archives* turns 40. For the modern-day historian of sexological scholarship, something is not right. After all, Vol. 1 of *Archives* was published in 1971. Any expert in hierarchical linear modeling would know that we should be at Vol. 41. Alas, it turns out that Vol. 2 spanned two years (1972–1973). Perhaps there was a shortage of new submissions back in the day. Perhaps the Founding Editor was dreaming of law school and missed some publication deadline. Whatever. In this Editorial, I will take the reader through an update on the *Journal's* operations (see also Zucker, 2002; Zucker & Cantor, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009) and other matters.

The Impact Factor

Calculated each year by the Web of Science® (Thomson Reuters), a journal's impact factor (IF) for a given year is a measure of the frequency with which its recent articles are cited on average during that year. "Recent" refers to the two prior calendar years. Thus, *Archives'* 2009 IF is the number of times that its 2008 and 2007 articles were cited in 2009, divided by the number of articles the *Archives* published in 2007 and 2008. Although the IF is the best known metric for citation analysis, there are other measures, including the Immediacy Index (II) and the Cited Half-Life (CHL). The II is a measure of how frequently the journal's "average article" is cited the same year in which it is published. Thus, the II for a year is calculated as the number of times articles from that journal are cited during that year, divided by the number of articles that journal

published that year. The CHL is a measure of the longevity of the frequency of citations to articles in the journal, that is, for how long the average article maintains its currency. The CHL for a year is determined by the time required to account for a cumulative total of 50% of that year's citations to the journal.

Table 1 shows the IF of the sex and gender periodicals, broadly defined, for the year 2009. The IF of *Archives* had a nice jump from 2.30 in 2008 to 3.23 in 2009. The meaning of the IF can be crudely gauged in comparative perspective: For 2009, of 2,242 Social Science journals, *Archives* was ranked 115th (95th percentile). Of 93 journals classified as Psychology (Clinical), *Archives* was ranked 9th (90th percentile). Of 68 journals classified as Social Science, Interdisciplinary, *Archives* was ranked 1st. Two of my favorite journals, *Evolution and Human Behavior* and *Hormones and Behavior*, are a mere .36 and .54 points away. Can I bring out my bow and arrow now? Of course, an Editor's greatest anxiety about an IF going up is: What if it goes down? The Editor of *Journal of Sexual Medicine* has witnessed a decrease from 6.19 in 2007 to a mere 5.39 and 4.88 in 2008 and 2009, respectively. One recourse in explaining the drop is to use an incorrect formula in calculating the IF (Goldstein, 2010). There are many Editors who would die for an IF greater than 4.

In previous Editorials, I have observed that there are many sex and gender journals that are not given an IF by the Web of Science®. I am pleased to note in Table 1 that *Men and Masculinities* has now entered the numbers game, as has the widely read *Feministische Studien*. Starting in 2010, *Psychology of Men & Masculinity* (see Sánchez, 2010) and the *International Journal of Sexual Health* will join the pack. I would still like to see some other periodicals, such as *International Journal of Transgenderism*, *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Mental Health*, *Sexologies*, and *Sexualities*, make their way into the game. The formerly electronic only *Sexuality Research and Social Policy* has now been transformed into a

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Table 1 Impact factor for the year 2009: sex- and gender-related journals ($N = 56$)

Journal	Impact factor	2009 Total cites	2009 Articles	Immediacy index	Cited half-life
Archives of Sexual Behavior	3.239	2,583	86	0.651	7.1
AIDS	4.909	19,911	314	1.150	6.0
Journal of Sexual Medicine	4.884	4,088	374	0.634	2.3
Psychoneuroendocrinology	4.194	6,284	170	0.912	5.8
Fertility and Sterility	3.970	24,036	712	0.654	7.2
AIDS Reviews	3.786	591	21	0.333	4.7
Hormones and Behavior	3.770	6,231	148	0.709	6.0
International Journal of Andrology	3.705	2,259	78	0.538	5.3
Evolution and Human Behavior	3.594	1,858	47	0.426	6.1
Menopause	3.082	2,746	151	0.967	3.8
AIDS and Behavior	3.038	1,998	140	0.514	3.6
Sexual Development	2.985	210	28	0.179	2.1
International Journal of Impotence Research	2.727	2,499	54	0.593	6.0
AIDS Patient Care and STDs	2.683	1,690	125	0.232	4.2
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	2.579	4,440	150	0.507	5.9
Journal of Sex & Marital Therapy	2.264	1,315	28	0.071	8.1
Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health	2.220	724	25	0.160	5.3
Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment	2.208	699	27	0.185	6.0
Body Image	2.193	593	53	0.245	4.0
Sexually Transmitted Infections	2.175	3,224	123	1.106	5.1
Journal of Women's Health	1.770	1,592	217	0.157	3.8
AIDS Care	1.684	2,951	197	0.183	5.5
Sexual Health	1.613	315	53	0.113	2.8
AIDS Education and Prevention	1.506	1,244	65	0.046	6.9
Gender and Society	1.339	1,732	28	0.286	>10.0
Psychology of Women Quarterly	1.297	1,620	43	0.512	>10.0
Women's Health Issues	1.269	619	50	0.220	5.4
Journal of Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynecology	1.197	790	40	0.175	8.5
Culture, Health, and Sexuality	1.068	489	51	0.216	4.5
Journal of Sex Research	1.060	1,632	47	0.255	>10.0
International Journal of STD and AIDS	1.050	2,428	214	0.360	5.9
Gender, Place, and Culture	1.043	466	36	0.000	7.1
Sex Roles	0.928	3,539	135	0.081	10.0
Sexuality and Disability	0.800	299	22	0.091	8.8
European Journal of Women's Studies	0.763	180	18	0.056	4.2
Women & Health	0.740	1,048	33	0.061	8.1
Gender and Education	0.731	527	46	0.043	7.0
Body & Society	0.652	510	25	.160	8.7
Men and Masculinities	0.526	242	28	0.071	6.8
Feminism and Psychology	0.514	398	44	0.023	7.5
Journal of Gender Studies	0.452	105	6	0.000	6.6
Feminist Review	0.431	303	23	0.043	>10.0
Signs	0.424	1,179	53	0.132	>10.0
GLQ: A Journal of Gay and Lesbian Studies	0.404	194	19	0.053	8.2
Women's Studies International Forum	0.367	602	51	0.020	9.6
Journal of Homosexuality	0.286	1,005	56	0.018	>10.0
Asian Journal of Women's Studies	0.258	48	17	0.059	
Australian Feminist Studies	0.217	104	27	0.037	8.0

Table 1 continued

Journal	Impact factor	2009 Total cites	2009 Articles	Immediacy index	Cited half-life
Women and Therapy	0.171	181	28	0.143	8.9
Journal of the History of Sexuality	0.125	162	19	0.053	8.6
Frontiers: Journal of Women's Studies	0.121	92	28	0.000	
Feminist Studies	0.087	419	18	0.000	>10.0
Feministische Studien	0.037	18	11	0.000	

Note: Total cites means the number of references cited in the articles published in the journal in 2009. Immediacy index means cites in 2009 to articles published in 2009/number of articles published in 2009. Cited half-life is the median age of its articles cited in the current year. Half of the citations to the journal are to articles published within the cited half-life

print journal (Vol. 7 in 2010), published by Springer; hopefully, it too will have an IF someday. It will also be of interest to see how a new periodical, *Psychology & Sexuality* (Vol. 1 in 2010), will compete in the sexological marketplace. With its “progressive” editorial policy of a “strongly non-pathological stance,” it will surely attract many contributors. On the other hand, its policy on submissions that “[treat] sexualities, of any kind, as pathology and in need of treatment and cure will not be acceptable...[r]esearch and writing that is only about the biology of sexualities and/or that which seeks to identify the ‘causes’ of sexualities will also not be within the remit of this journal” (Langdrige & Barker, 2010) may result in some sexological scientists applying to a different country club.

Submissions and Disposition

Figure 1 shows the number of original submissions to the *Journal* between 2002 and 2010. In 2010, *Archives* almost reached 300 new submissions, a remarkable increase from 80 in 2002.

Figure 2 shows the Editorial decision data for the original submissions as a function of year (2002–2009). The percentage of manuscripts that were accepted or provisionally accepted

Fig. 1 Number of submissions (2002–2010) **Fig. 2** Manuscript disposition after initial submission (2002–2009)

ranged from 12.4 to 21.2%; the percentage of manuscripts that were subject to major revision ranged from 28.4 to 47.5%; and the percentage of manuscripts that were rejected ranged from 31.2 to 57.7%.

An important question pertains to the fate of the manuscripts with an Editorial decision of “major revision” (revise and resubmit). Between 2002 and 2008, 362 submissions were in this category. Of these, 269 (74.3%) were accepted for publication after revision, 82 (22.7%) were not resubmitted, and 11 (3.0%) were rejected. One can only assume that the manuscripts not resubmitted have been published elsewhere or are gathering dust in the file drawer. With the increase in submissions, this means that the queue for publication is longer. This points to the importance of advance online publication, which has been operational now for several years. Interested readers can track papers that are online first ahead of print by simply typing the name of the journal when accessing PubMed or the Springer link to *Archives*. The *Journal* has accommodated the increased number of accepted manuscripts, in part, with an increase in allocated page numbers. We had 1,476 printed pages in 2010. For this, we owe our continued thanks to Carol Bischoff at Springer for her steady commitment to the success of the *Journal*.

On the Relationship Between *Archives* and the International Academy of Sex Research

For many years now, the *Archives* has been the official publication of the International Academy of Sex Research (IASR). In 2010, the Academy officers (Cynthia Graham, Erick Jansen, Eli Coleman, and Lin Myers) hammered out a new agreement with the publisher that is worth sharing with the readership. Springer has generously agreed to provide a yearly stipend to the Academy to award Best Poster Presentations and Best Brief Communications (including those by graduate students). The awards for 2010 from the meeting in Prague will be announced in a subsequent issue. Springer has also generously reduced the annual subscription cost to the IASR membership. Again, we owe our thanks to Carol Bischoff for all of this.

Transitions

In this first issue for 2011, the careful reader of the inside cover will detect some changes to the Editorial Board. Drs. Peter M. Bentler, Dennis McFadden, and Niklas Långström have stepped down from the Board. Peter Bentler has served the *Journal* for a long time, starting in 1977. His wise statistical expertise has been invaluable. Dennis McFadden served since 2007 as one of my 2D:4D experts and his reviews strengthened many of these submissions. I hope his departure will make his “emeritus status” at the University of Texas more enjoyable.

The British playwright J. M. Barrie wrote that “Nothing is really work unless you would rather be doing something else.” Believe me, I take great pleasure in the honor of being the

Editor of *Archives*. But ~300 new submissions/year has lessened the fun. It’s beyond my saturation point. Accordingly, I am pleased to announce that, effective 2011, the *Journal* has five new Associate Editors who will handle some of the submissions in their domains of expertise: Lori A. Brotto, Michael P. Carey, Shari L. Dworkin, Marta Meana, and Jeffrey T. Parsons. It’s time to share the fun.

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